



## Presidents Message

### SBARA 2002 President—Mike AB6CV

I have been doing some antenna work lately so it must be Spring time. I helped one of our club members put up some vhf/uhf beams. I got to thinking about some of the really strange antennas I have put up over the years. Some made out of wooden supports that were not entirely straight.

And I think some of you will remember the wire beam we had setup at Field Day a couple of years ago. I was glad it didn't get too windy that year.

If any of you have pictures of some interesting antennas you have been involved with send them along. I would love to see them in our newsletter. It might be fun to also get pictures of various club members hamshacks to put in the newsletter and web pages. I get ideas from seeing other people's setups sometimes.

The big DX Convention in Visalia is later this month (26-28). Is anyone going? I might. Especially if it gives me an excuse to miss a day of work and take vacation. Now some of the bad news. We are out of the PrimaVera event.

This will probably be permanently, since I doubt they will want us back. Why? Lack of interest by club members. This will reduce the clubs income even more.

Please make sure your dues are up to date. Also Harry Lau has resigned as club VP. He has been very busy with his new job. I wish him the best of luck and hope things settle down there at work.

I was following some of the links off our website today. I wound up in all kinds of neat places. You might want to give it a try yourselves.

73,

Mike AB6CV

### SBARA Meeting

SBARA meets every third Wednesday at 7:30 PM at the Community Center in Fremont.

### April Program

'Getting on microwave bands with transverters'

The program kicks-off at 7:30 PM

See you there!!!!

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## April Program

Meeting program will be ' Getting on microwave bands with transverters' Come see some of the SBARA members microwave equipment that can be built easily and uses your standard 2 meter or HF rig for the IF processing.

### FIELD DAY 2002

Field Day 2002 rules, packets now available: The ARRL Field Day 2002 rules and packets now are available on the ARRL Web site

<<http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/>> as Adobe PDF files (ASCII files will be updated by next week). The ARRL has adopted rule changes affecting Field Day, including the addition of a "Get On The Air" (GOTA) station, which replaces the Novice-Technician station. Field Day 2002 will mark the first in which stations throughout the Americas have been invited to participate.

All International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 countries--North and South America--may take part in Field Day, which takes place June 22-23 this year.

For more information, contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, [contest@arrl.org](mailto:contest@arrl.org).

## Amateur Radio Calendar of Events

March 9 Foothill Flea Market  
March 11 Sunnyvale VEC Ham Radio Exam Session - Fremont  
March 14 **SBARA** Board Meeting  
March 17 Transmitter Hunt - Bay Hunt - N1DDK/WD6CJK  
March 20 **SBARA** Meeting -  
March 30 Transmitter Hunt - 10AM Pleasanton-Pack A Lunch

April 6 Transmitter Hunt - Fremont Challenge Hunt - KF6OMC  
April 7 Daylight Savings time Begins  
April 7 Livermore Swap meet  
April 8 Sunnyvale VEC Ham Radio Exam Session - Fremont  
April 11 **SBARA** Board Meeting  
April 13 Foothill Flea Market  
April 17 **SBARA** Meeting -  
April 20 Transmitter Hunt - 10:00AM Alamont Pass - KN6FW  
April 20 Baker to Vegas 120 Mile Relay Race  
April 21 Primiveria Bicycle Race  
April 26-28 Visalia International DX Convention

May 4 Transmitter Hunt - 6:00pm! Fremont  
May 5 Livermore Swap meet  
May 6 Sunnyvale VEC Ham Radio Exam Session - Fremont  
May 11 Foothill Flea Market  
May 11 Reno Spring Ham Swap  
May 9 **SBARA** Board Meeting  
May 15 **SBARA** Meeting  
May 17-19 Dayton Hamvention  
May 18 Transmitter Hunt - Fox's Choice

## **ARRL ASKS FCC TO ELIMINATE, "REFARM" NOVICE CW BANDS**

The ARRL has asked the FCC to eliminate the 80, 40 and 15-meter Novice/Technician Plus CW subbands as such and reuse that spectrum in part to expand the phone allocations on 80 and 40 meters. In a Petition for Rule Making filed March 22, the League requests that the FCC revise its Amateur Service rules in accordance with the modified Novice band "refarming" scheme the ARRL Board of Directors okayed in January. The Petition has not yet been put on public notice for comment.

"The opportunity to eliminate the Novice and Technician-Plus telegraphy subbands and the reapportionment of those inefficiently deployed segments will allow alleviation of significant, sometimes critical, overcrowding in the popular Amateur HF allocations," the ARRL said in its Petition.

The ARRL also cited "substantial advancements in the use of digital techniques" in the HF bands--such as PSK31--to bolster its assertion that a refarming plan for the underutilized Novice HF subbands "cannot wait longer and must proceed now." The refarming plan adopted was based on the recommendations of the ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee following a survey of the amateur community last year. Under the proposal, no operator class would lose privileges, and most would gain.

If the FCC approves the plan, current Novice and Technician Plus (ie, Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees would be permitted to operate on the 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter General-class CW allocations at up to 200-W output. For General and higher class operators, the ARRL wants the FCC to implement changes in the 80, 40 and 15-meter "phone" bands.

On 80 meters (3500-4000 kHz), phone privileges would begin at 3725 kHz for Extra, at 3750 kHz for Advanced and at 3800 kHz for General--another 25 kHz for Extra and Advanced operators and another 50 kHz for Generals. On 40 meters (7000-7300 kHz), phone privileges would begin at 7125 kHz for Advanced and Extra and at 7175 kHz for General--25 kHz more for Extra and Advanced operators and another 50 kHz for Generals. On 15 meters (21,000-21,450 kHz), phone privileges would begin at 21,200 kHz for Extra, at 21,225 kHz for Advanced and at 21,275 kHz for General--no change for Extra and Advanced but 25 kHz more for General. On 10 meters, the ARRL has recommended no changes other than to accommodate CW, RTTY and data by Novice and Tech Plus licensees at 28.0 to 28.3 MHz.

The ARRL suggested that its proposed configurations strike the right balance between the need for additional phone spectrum and the important goal of encouraging further development of narrowband data modes in the CW segments.

The ARRL's "omnibus" petition also asks the FCC to permit amateurs to use spread spectrum on the 222-225 MHz band; expand the pool of special event call signs beyond the 1x1 format to include identifiers for US territories and possessions that do not provide for mailing addresses; clarify its rules to indicate that modulated CW (MCW) is permitted for repeater station identification; and to incorporate into its rules a 1990 FCC waiver authorizing amateurs in certain areas of Colorado and Wyoming to operate on certain segments of the 33-cm band. The League invited the FCC to consolidate its omnibus petition with other pending Amateur Radio-related petitions now before the FCC.

A copy of the ARRL's complete Petition for Rulemaking is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/refarm/>>.

## SBARA Monthly Meeting Minutes 3/20/2002

Meeting is called to order by SBARA President Mike Studer/ AB6CV at 7:45

Mike begins the meeting by announcing that the SBARA Board/management meeting now meets on the second Thursday of the month (a change from the second Wednesday).

James/ N1DDK advised of the change out of the repeater controller for WA6PWW / 147.015 and further efforts to correct various problems. Investigations continue into possible causes of problems.

A brief discussion followed concerning problems that resulted in the Ground plane being mailed late.

James / N1DDK proposed a SBARA project/workshop of a DCS (digitally coded squelch), a PL encode/decode circuit or a circuit that could display the PL or DCS of a monitored signal. All centered on a PIC processor.

Discussion by Mike / AB6CV about the lack of a volunteer to lead / coordinate the Primavera event. There are plenty of volunteers but no controller/organizer. If one is not found soon Mike will advise that SBARA will not be able to handle the event. This means a considerable loss of income for the club.

For the evening presentation Activities Manager Al Rendon / WT6K presented the ARRL Videotape "Ham Radio In Space" , part 1. Subjects of the tape:

The tape identified and discussed various NASA astronauts and complete shuttle crews that are Hams.

Discussion of SAREX  
History of OSCAR beginning in 1961  
Formation of AMSAT  
Short talks by astronaut / Hams  
Some shuttle to earth communications with school children.

I received a treasurer report from Jim Wood / KE6IVA as follows:

March 20, 2002

Beginning Balance 2/20/2002	\$526.99	
Receipts this period	\$275.00	
Membership Dues	\$275.00	
Expenses this period	\$40.92	
February Newsletter	\$40.92	
Balance 3/20/2002	\$761.07	Checkbook
CD's 2/28/2002	\$2011.10	Statement

Sam Severs WS6S, SBARA Secretary

## ASTRONAUT GREETES HIS KIDS FROM SPACE VIA HAM RADIO

Astronaut Dan Bursch, KD5PNU, aboard the International Space Station fielded 20 questions March 21 from 10 elementary schoolers--two of them his own children. Youngsters attending St Thomas the Apostle Episcopal School in Nassau Bay, Texas, spoke with Bursch via an Amateur Radio and teleconferencing linkup. A day earlier, astronaut Carl Walz, KC5TIE, talked directly via 2 meters with youngsters at a school in Australia. Both contacts with NA1SS were compliments of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program

Bursch's daughter, Robyn, and son, Jackson, had the honor of being the first and second in the St Thomas question queue. Robyn Bursch asked her dad if it was cold in space. "Hello, Robyn! I miss you!" Bursch replied. He went on to explain that while it can be really hot or really cold in space depending on whether or not you were in sunlight, inside the space station "it's just like home."

Robyn's younger sibling Jackson was eager to know how many times a day his father ate. "Hi, Jackson, I miss you too. Probably about eight times a day," he quipped, before explaining that the crew ate the usual three times a day "and sometimes we have a snack, too, with tea, so maybe that counts as three-and-a-half times."

Sleeping in space took some getting used to, he told another questioner. The crew's sleeping bags need to be tied down or they'd float around, "and who knows where we'd end up in the morning?" he asked. Christmas trees in space? "We had a Christmas tree, and it was made out of cloth and just a couple of feet high," Bursch explained. Space aliens? Bursch said he hadn't spotted any yet.

Handling Earth station duties for the ARISS QSO was Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN, in Honolulu. Worldcom provided the teleconferencing hookup.

"It's been a wonderful experience, and we'll all treasure it," said coordinating teacher Martha Kirby Capo.

On March 20, Walz answered 13 questions via ham radio from students at Zeehan Primary School in Tasmania, Australia. The contact marked the first between the ISS and an Australian school. Walz explained that the crew would be returning to Earth in May, following a five-and-a-half month tour in space. He noted that crew members now have the capability to keep in touch with their families via an onboard telephone and via e-mail.

Asked about the crew's dietary routine, Walz explained that what he and his colleagues ate was "like food that you would take camping" and included canned, packaged and dehydrated meal items.

Handling Earth station chores for the direct contact were Bill Lynd, VK7KHZ, and Dick van Beek, VK7KVB. Veteran ARISS coordinator Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, congratulated the school on a job well done. "Despite gale-force winds and heavy rain, everything went smoothly," he said.

## **FCC CHIPS AWAY AT VANITY BACKLOG, PROPOSES VANITY FEE HIKE**

The FCC continues to whittle away the vanity backlog. Another 268 call sign grants were issued this week. The latest run includes applications received by the FCC as of January 25, 2002.

Among the recent happy campers was Randy McAlister, W7CWW (ex-KD6AQB), of Ventura, California, who wrote ARRL to say that he and his family were pleased that he now holds the call sign once held by his grandfather, Eugene Brounty--something he'd wanted since his grandfather died in 1963.

Meanwhile, the FCC is proposing to raise the regulatory fee it charges vanity call sign applicants from \$12 to \$14.50 for the 10-year license term. The FCC included the proposed new fee in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (MD Docket No. 02-64) released March 27 to set Fiscal Year 2002 fees. The effective date will be announced in the Report and Order that terminates the proceeding. If it's approved, the new fee likely will become effective sometime in September. The FCC has estimated that 8000 applicants would apply for vanity call signs in FY2001.

Applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the \$12 regulatory fee per call sign (per 10-year license term) until the FY2002 fee schedule becomes effective. The vanity fee is paid at the time of application for a new, renewal or reinstated vanity license.

## **ALL-HAM ISS CREW'S DUTY TOUR EXTENDED**

The Expedition 4 International Space Station crew of Commander Yuri Onufrienko, RK3DUO, and flight engineers Dan Bursch, KD5PNU, and Carl Walz, KC5TIE, will be spending an extra month in orbit. Problems with the Canadarm 2 robotic arm on the ISS will result in extending their mission to 189 days--a new record for the US crew members. March 29 marks 114 days in space for the current crew, which came aboard in December.

Late last week NASA decided to bump the launch of the Expedition 5 crew aboard the shuttle Endeavour (STS-111) from May 6 to May 31 in order to permit more training time for the shuttle crew to deal with the mechanical arm repair. Shuttle astronauts will replace a wrist joint in the space station's mechanical arm. The Endeavour won't be returning to Earth until June 12, which means the astronauts on the Expedition 4 crew will beat NASA's current space endurance record by one day.

US astronaut Shannon Lucid, who spent 188 days aboard the Russian Mir spacecraft in 1996, is the current American record holder, and she will still hold the women's space endurance record.

Onufrienko, however, will not come close to topping the Russian 438-day endurance record set aboard Mir in 1994 and 1995 by cosmonaut Valery Polyakov.

For more information about the ISS, visit NASA's Human Space Flight Web site, <. --NASA"http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/index.html>.--

## **AMATEURS SUMMON HELP AFTER SAILBOAT RUNS AGROUND**

Vigilant members of the Maritime Mobile Service Net on 20 meters relayed calls for help from a sailing vessel that ran aground March 26 off the northern coast of Cuba. Aboard the sailing vessel Tao were Dave Beane, G0TAG, and his wife, Sara, whose frantic calls on the Net frequency got a quick response. The couple subsequently was rescued by Cuban authorities and their sailboat re-floated.

"She was in a big panic, and then they just stopped transmitting," reported Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, in South Florida, who said he happened onto the situation when he turned on his transceiver.

US Virgin Islands ARRL Section Manager John Ellis, NP2B, said that less than an hour earlier, Beane had checked into the MMSN to say the couple had enjoyed a visit to Cuba and was planning to sail around to the south side. "There was no indication of any problem," he added. Since Ellis had the best copy, he managed the incident.

"It turned out that Dave and Sara had run upon a reef, had called for help from the Cuban authorities, but had received no response," he said. "Sara was rather frantic when she came on 14.300. We immediately gave her a clear frequency." Ellis said a net slightly higher in frequency yielded to give the Net a wide berth.

Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, in Texas notified the US Coast Guard. At about the same time, Petzolt contacted the Swiss Embassy--the US has no diplomatic relations with Cuba, and Switzerland often serves as an intermediary. The Swiss Embassy put him in touch with the Cuban mission in Washington, which, in turn, contacted authorities in Havana by radio. The US Coast Guard was only able to contact the Cuban authorities via telex.

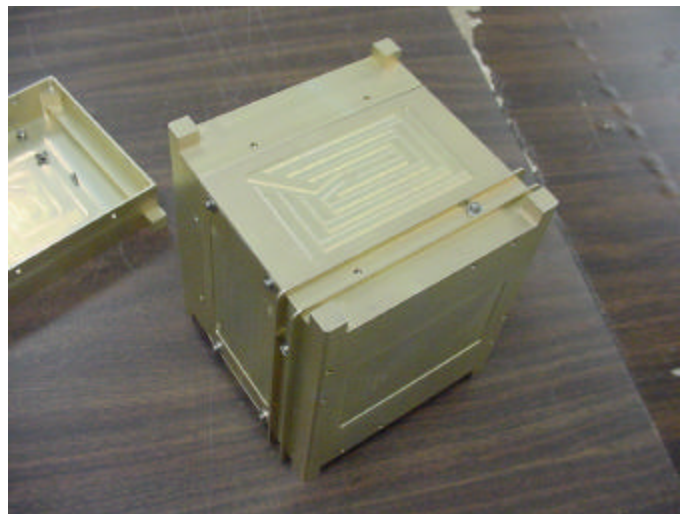
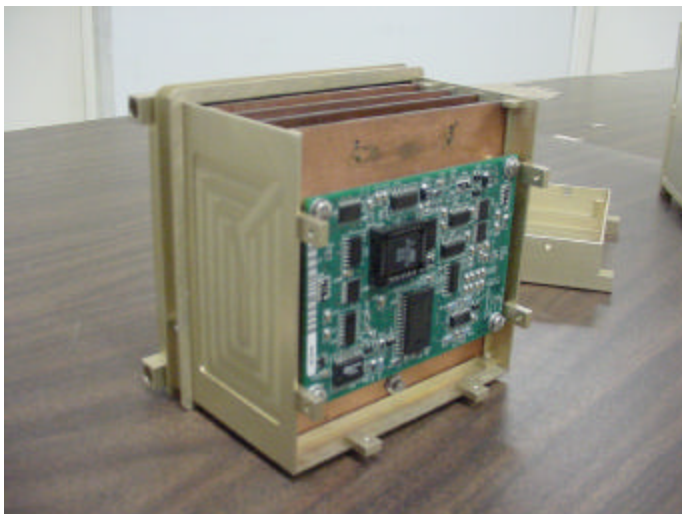
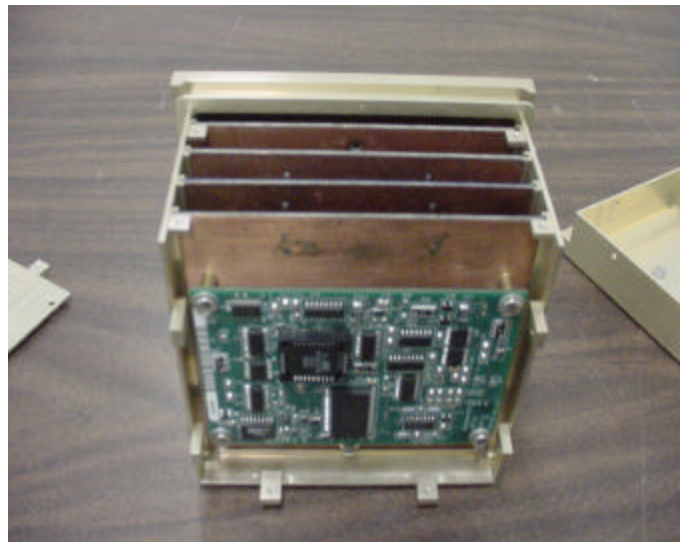
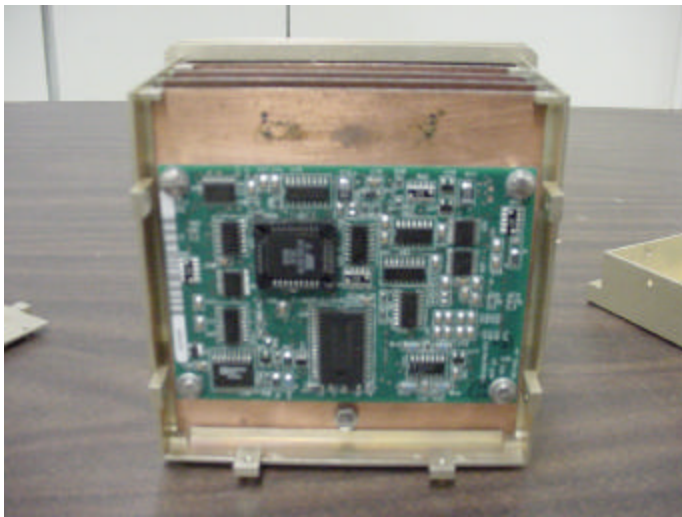
"We tried to determine if they were in danger of sinking, but that is when we lost communication," Ellis said. "We never heard from them for the remainder of the evening."



Ellis said G0TAG checked into the Net later in the week to say that Cuban authorities were able to float the vessel off the reef and get the couple under way again. "Dave, G0TAG, had nothing but good words to say about the Cubans," Ellis said. "The authorities were very nice and helpful, they even sent two divers down to inspect the bottom of the boat--all at no charge!"

The MMSN had "excellent cooperation and assistance" during the incident from net control Frank Kelly, N3FK, Petzolt, Pilgrim and Dave Dabziel, N4ICE, Ellis said. "There were a number of others on frequency available to help, but all maintained top-notch order and control," Ellis added.--thanks to Brandon Horn, KC2HFG, for alerting ARRL to this incident

SBARASAT Photos....





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